

# ORGANIZATION OF DAUGHTERS OF THE PIONEERS.

## Society for Perpetuation of Memory of Trials of Early Days in Utah.

THE jubilee year of 1897 was suggestive of patriotic thoughts to many descendants of the sturdy pioneers who blazed their way through the great American desert just 50 years before. Three of the descendants of those pioneers, Reed Smoot, Susan Young Gates and John Coltrin, all living in Provo, issued a public call to those eligible to form such a society, and there was organized in Provo in 1897, the first patriotic society in Utah, known as the Sons and Daughters of the Pioneers of Utah county. This was, however, simply a county society, and such it is today, being exceedingly prosperous and popular still, in that progressive county of this progressive state. Reed Smoot was its first, and in fact, only president, as he has continued in office, by acclamation, ever since. Mrs. Gates was first vice president, and she held that office till her departure for New York in 1902. John Coltrin was made an honorary president some years before his death, in recognition of his faithful services to the society.

### SALT LAKE ORGANIZATION.

Three years later, a number of Salt Lake ladies conceived the idea of organizing a similar society in Salt Lake City, but to be confined in membership to the Daughters only; among them being Mrs. Clarissa Smith Williams, and her sister, Mrs. Lizzie Cartright, Mrs. Alice Merrill Horne, and Mrs. Annie Taylor Hyde. However, Mrs. Hyde was the first one to move forward. The society of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers was organized at a gathering held in Mrs. Hyde's home, April 11, 1901, this being the anniversary of her mother's birthday. Mrs. Hyde was chosen president, Mrs. Maria Y. Dougall, first counselor; Mrs. Sarah Richards Smith, second counselor. The enthusiasm generated at that initial meeting carried the Daughters over the two years of Mrs. Hyde's presidency. The ladies met at private houses, the programs being varied and all bearing upon pioneer topics. During Mrs. Hyde's incumbency, very minute and elaborate admission papers were prepared for the applicants for membership. These papers will prove of value and interest to all future generations, although they are difficult to prepare. Mrs. Hyde spared no labor nor thought in establishing the work her fertile brain had conceived. At the end of the two years, Mrs. Alice Merrill Horne was elected as president, and she chose Isabel Whitney Sears and Elizabeth S. Wilcox as her counselors. This second administration did some excellent work, publishing their year book, while their fine programs covered the history of the exodus and entrance into the valley. Mrs. Horne was very active and she and her associates labored faithfully and well.

When the present administration accepted office, in 1905, there were many ideas to develop, numerous theories to try out. And some have materialized, some are still poisoning in air, just near enough to catch the rosy gleams from the sun of hope, yet often so far away that they are dim and misty with the clouds of unfulfilled desire.

### QUARTERS IN LION HOUSE.

The society set its first effort to secure rooms; the small but grate-

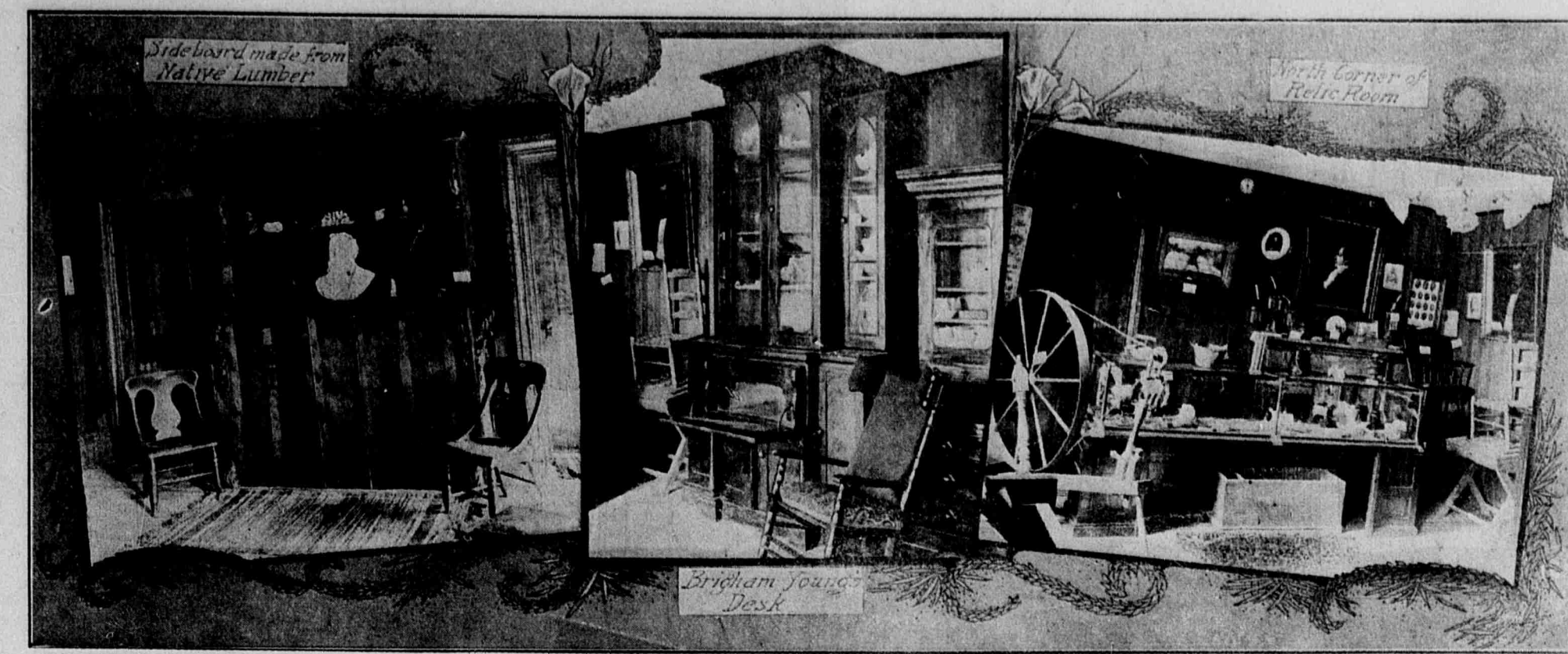


Photo by Harry Shipler.

## SOME PRICELESS RELICS IN POSSESSION OF UTAH WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION.

ful quarters in the old Deseret News building were supplanted in less than a year by the commodious rooms in the historic old Lion House. The treasury must depend upon entertainments and entrance fees for its support, and the semi-yearly entertainments of the society filled the coffers while giving pleasure to hundreds of friends on those occasions.

### COLLECTION OF RELICS.

The thought of focusing the historical data by establishing a relic hall was a happy one, and the success attending this feature of the work sufficiently attests its value and popularity. The board of trustees of the L. D. S. high school recognized the value of such an exhibit for their own purposes, and gladly gave room to store the collections of the society in the Lion House. In this very crowded collection will be found a letter written by the Prophet Joseph Smith's own hand to his brother Hyrum; some historic china from the prophet's home in Nauvoo and an oil painting of him. There are two paintings of the great Utah Pioneer Brigham Young. Indeed, as might be expected, the store of precious and interesting relics of this famous man is very large and rich. His traveling basket, the "top" hat he wore on his mission to England in 1840, his picture painted in Philadelphia on his return from that mission, a chair made by him in Canadaigua county, New York, in the years before he ever heard of Joseph Smith and his glorious message, are all stored here. The cabinets made by Elder Ward for President Young in the early sixties; the chairs made for the Lion House by Elder Bell, these are but a tithe of the many reminders of Brigham Young stored in this crowded hall.

### UTAH POTTERY.

Then, there is one of the first clay vessels ever turned by that unique potter Heber C. Kimball, and the beauty of shape and workmanship sufficiently attest the artistic values of the man who could have made sonnets as well as he made jugs. There is the stirrup used by that quaint physician-



THREE DAUGHTERS OF THREE PIONEER WOMEN.

historian, Willard Richards, when he crossed the plains with the historic pioneers. There is a set of hair jewelry made from the locks of Wilford Woodruff. A copy of the first edition of the Book of Mormon. Relics from the Hill of Cumorah, gathered by the Vermont party. A genuine woolen dress, carded, colored, spun, plaided, woven and made, from the first ball of unformed wool, to the last stitch of its manufacture, by the fingers of Mrs. Zina D. H. Young. There is a portrait of Mrs. Clara D. Young, the wife of President Young, and one of the three women who came in the pioneer company. The spinning wheel on which Mrs. Lucy B. Young spun in the Lion House the cloth there exhibited, the head of the spinning wheel used by Mrs. Eliza Burgess Young. Then, there are some rare images dug from old Inca tombs in Peru. The English Medal of William Wood, who was a soldier in the Crimean war. A primer and speller used in the pioneer schools. China, of many plans and periods, from old English china, over three hundred years old, to the first jug made by the Utah pottery works. This jug has in bas-relief shocks of corn in such perfection that many modern potters would turn green with envy at its sight. There is a bedspread woven and embroidered by the fingers of Eliza R. Snow, and used by President Young for many years.

In the parlor of the Lion House, is the sofa made by Elder Bell and used always in the place in which it now stands. The woodwork, and the fine old windows of the Lion House parlor are seen to advantage in the illustration; but the painting done on the woodwork, as good today as it was 50 years and more ago, must be seen to be appreciated.

### HELD IN TRUST.

The relics are obtained by loan or gift, and there is a strict system of bookkeeping carried on in this department. Each relic is labeled and entered in a book, with the name of owner, date and history of relic, and the card attached to the article gives its history and its ownership. Some relics are donated, others are loaned; but all are

## All Sorts and Conditions of Articles with a History Are Preserved.

held by the president of the society and the chairman of the relic committee as property in trust.

The meetings of the society are held semi-monthly, on the first and third Wednesday in the month. The first meeting is a study and business gathering; the third Wednesday being devoted to pioneer programs by living pioneers. The last winter was particularly full of interest in both sections. Bishop Hiram B. Clawson gave the society several valuable addresses, relating many vivid yet musical interpretations of his themes, unwritten historical incidents. His descendants furnished appropriate musical interpretations of his themes. The study program has covered the Pioneering of America, including the Discovery, the Mexican Conquest, and the several other pioneer emigrations from Europe.

### MATERIAL INCREASE.

The society has materially increased in membership, attendance, and interest, during the last year.

In the last two years applications for the formation of local and county societies have been made to the central society from Davis county; Summit county; Cache county; Paris, Idaho; Vernal; Uintah county; St. George; from Lund in Nevada; and both Arizona and Colorado; but hitherto, the board has felt unable to comply with these generous requests. Lack of funds, or lack of scope, may have hindered this expansion for the present.

### GENEALOGICAL WORK.

The genealogical work of the present organization has more value than is at present realized. That the daughters should be interested not only in their fathers but also in their grandfathers is not surprising; and the deep interest evoked by the department of genealogy in the columns of the Saturday Evening "News," proves what a hold this new and up-to-date feature has on the general public, as well as upon the members of the society. Loyalty cannot end with one generation, or it is but a cheap and flimsy remembrance and affection.

### AIMS OF SOCIETY.

The objects and aims of the society are sufficiently obvious: To stimulate loyal remembrance in the heart of every descendant of the men and women who so gallantly opened the jaws of the wilderness and brought flowering smiles and beneficial tears on the face of a country which had known only desolation and drought. The future of the society is hidden. Whether the newly-formed general society of the sons and daughters of the pioneers, which has for its only object the celebrating in fitting manner of the Pioneer day, shall interfere in scope or purpose with this older and different society, only time and experience may tell. The daughters of the pioneers have specific purposes and definite labors set, and whether the future applicant for membership in a loyal society may find him or herself not utterly mixed when trying to divide honors and adherence between the two similar societies time only may prove. But certain it is, the daughters have put into actual working practice a few of their loved theories.

### SUSAN YOUNG GATES.

President.  
ALICE KIMBALL SMITH.  
ANN D. GROESBECK.  
Counselors.

# Two Brave Women Who Shared Hardships With Mormon Battalion.

OF the women who saw Salt Lake valley in July, 1847, perhaps only two are now living. They are Mrs. Albina M. Williams of Soda Springs, Idaho, and Mrs. Phoebe Lodema Thompson of Smithfield, Utah. Several there may be of the gentler sex who as little girls, came with their parents in that month. One at least of the latter class is Mrs. Caroline Kimball, of Logan, eldest daughter of Mrs. Williams, who was 4 years old when, on July 29, 1847, she was brought by her parents to the present site of Salt Lake City.

Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Thompson are sisters, both born at Elba, New York, the former July 25, 1826, and the latter Aug. 5, 1832. They were the daughters of Samuel and Phoebe Odell Merrill. The elder sister became the wife of Thomas S. Williams, Aug. 25, 1842, and when her husband enlisted in the Mormon Battalion in July, 1846, she accompanied him. With her went her sister Lodema.

Samuel Merrill was a veteran of the war of 1812, having served as a captain of heavy artillery during this country's second conflict with Great Britain. He was in the exodus of the Mormon people from Illinois when the requisition was made for 500 men to go to California and take part in the war then on against Mexico. And though he was an aged man, and could ill afford to spare the services of any of his family, the spirit of loyalty and patriotism were so deeply implanted in the heart of "Father" Merrill that he readily gave to his country's cause one son, two sons-in-law, two grandsons and two daughters. The son was Philomen C. Merrill, who became the adjutant of the battalion; the sons-in-law were Philander Colton and Sgt. Thomas S. Williams; the grandsons were Edwin Colton and Ferdinand Merrill, and the daughters were the subjects of this sketch.

When the battalion reached Santa Fe, New Mexico, it was decided by Col. Phillip St. George Cook to separate from the company all the sick and disabled soldiers and the women and children of the party, in order that the remainder might make a

more rapid march to the seat of war. Accordingly Capt. James Brown was placed in charge of the detachment, and the same was conducted back to old Fort Pueblo on the Arkansas river, the present site of the city of that name in Colorado. Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Thompson were of that party. It was late in the fall of 1846, and Capt. Brown determined to spend the winter at the Spanish fort. It was hundreds of miles from any settlement, and poorly protected, but it was the best refuge that could be obtained.

The men who were able to work set about strengthening the fortifications, as Indians and Spaniards were almost daily threatening attacks upon the fort. Insufficient food and clothing occasioned much sickness among men, women and children. The number of graves in the little cemetery gradually increased as the population of the place decreased and but for the tender nursing of the women of the camp many more would have been added to the city of the silent dead.

### LEAVE PUEBLO HOME.

Spring came at last, and then the word was conveyed to the isolated little colony that a start had been made by the pioneers to find a new home in the far west. The sojourners at Pueblo were instructed to proceed westward. No time was lost in bidding farewell to the little old fort on the Arkansas. Captain Brown's company fell in the wake of the pioneers, and all but overtook them before the valley of the Great Salt Lake was reached. As a matter of fact, some of the battalion people came in with the first of the pioneers, but the wagon containing Mrs. Williams and her sister did not arrive at the banks of City creek until five days after President Young had pitched his tent there.

### MADE WIDOWS BY REDSKINS.

In 1851 Phoebe Lodema Merrill became the wife of Parmenio A. Jackman and a few years later the husband engaged in business with his brother-in-law, Thomas S. Williams. In the course of time the firm became one of the largest and most prosperous in the city. In the early part of the year

1860, Messrs. Williams and Jackman took the southern route for California to bring back a wagon train of merchandise. They had a large number of wagons, drawn by 40 span of mules and employed many teamsters. Near Bitter Springs on March 18, the two men were shot down by Indians as they rode in advance of their wagons, in quest of a suitable place to camp. The Indians, an old man and his three sons, appeared friendly and told of good grass and water just ahead. The unsuspecting white men allowed the redskins to fall into the

rear, when suddenly each rider in front was pierced by two arrows in the back.

Mr. Jackman fell face downward in the sand, and his companion supposed him to be dead. Mr. Williams galloped away in a circuitous course and reached his men, while yet enough life remained in him to tell the story. As he rode along he tried to pull one of the arrows from his back and the point was broken off inside him. He died that night. When found, Mr. Jackman was alive, but had been terribly tortured by the savages. He

was paralyzed and unable to help himself in any way, excepting to reach a five-shooter pistol in his pocket. Four barrels had been emptied at the Indians, and the fifth bullet was retained, he told his rescuers, to put an end to his own suffering in case the worst came. Mr. Jackman lived one month to the day, and lies buried at San Bernardino. It was months before the news reached Salt Lake.

Of the entire outfit, but one pair of mules was returned to the widows, the teamsters appropriating to themselves the remainder of the animals

and the valuable outfits.

The murdered merchants had been possessed of much valuable real estate in the city, Mr. Williams owning the corner where now stands the Deseret National bank and the two holding much of the stretch of ground between the Kenyon hotel and the Wilson and much other real estate in the heart of the city. But the af-

fairs of the brothers-in-law were known most to themselves, and the loss of papers and documents consequent upon the men's tragic death, reduced the widows from affluence to almost poverty.

Later Mrs. Jackman re-married, but Mrs. Williams has remained a widow. Both are in fairly good health and bid fair to live yet many years.

## UTAH'S STATE FLOWER—The SEGO LILY

ALOCHORTUS-NUTTALLII! A long hard one isn't it? But that is the scientific name for the most beautiful of state flowers—Utah's own sego lily. The scientists are always calling pretty things bad names but the children don't care—they know it only by its common name, sego lily—not "sego" as the child of a decade ago pronounced it, nor yet "sago," as the school matron with a strong leaning toward a French pronunciation teaches it, but just s-e-g-o, sego.

It always blossoms in June just when wild roses are at their best, the two combined making a nosegay hard to excel both for fragrance and color. The delicate odor of the lily seems to combine perfectly with that of her pink-cheeked sister. The long-leaved grass-like foliage forms the distinct background to the three pure white petals with the purplish, heart-shaped and bearded spots inside, reminding one of the rippling accompaniment to the main theme of the "Communion in G."

The secret of growing it in gardens has not yet been learned but let it be hoped it soon will be, for the children—those ruthless destroyers of plant and bird life—are gathering it in such quantities near town that its extermination is threatened entirely. Listen to the tribute paid it by the pioneer: "How well I remember when the edible bulb of the sego took the place of fruit and vegetable to me. Often have I gone for a day's digging, and it is digging, for the end of the root is found from four to six inches below the surface of the ground—seeking beneath the shade of the sagebrush—where the lily likes

best to choose its growing place—for the toothsome morsels; returning at evening, tired but happy with my apron filled with sego bulbs with which to regale my family and myself. In those days, all the fruit we had were mice and service berries brought from the hills by the Indians, and when the Indians didn't materialize, I contented myself with the ever-faithful sego which was a fair substitute for the fruit I craved."

There is a poisonous variety and one of the stories of childhood's days is to the effect that two boys living in Sugar House ward—their names even are shrouded in mystery—had died from eating poisonous segoes. But the children of today must be sharper than these old children—who happened so long ago they seem like myths—for a child never gets hold of a poisonous one now-days, or if he does one never hears of it. May be the poison ones are extinct, but the scientists say "No, they still exist." Anyhow, it is well known that the wicked variety has longer, broader leaves, with flowers yellow and more on the golden-rod order.

Everybody likes the sego flower, strangers falling in love with it at first sight. Its just as much fun now gathering the lilies and eating the sweet bulbous root as it was in "Auld Lang Syne" and there is just as much old-fashioned health in the digging of them. Let them not perish from the hillsides; may their life last as long as the everlasting hill whose sweetest ornament they are. As one of old has said, and it is the wisest tribute ever paid: "Consider the lilies of the field; they toil not neither do they spin, and yet I say unto you that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

